

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

The Practitioner for April (Macmillan & Co.) has an interesting paper by Dr. Augustus Waller, F. R. S., "On the Effects of Compression of the Vagus Nerve" in the cure or relief of various nervous affections; some observations by Dr. Watson on the use of the Calabar in the "Treatment of Traumatic Tetanus;" the first of a series of articles by the editor, Professor Astic, and others "On the Dietetic and Medicinal Uses of Wines;" and various other original communications and selected papers.

In *The Bibliotheca Sacra* for April, the Rev. O. S. Taylor writes of "Psychology in the Life, and Teachings of Jesus;" Mr. Joseph Cook of "A Fourth Year of Study in the Courses of Theological Seminaries;" the Rev. Edward Robie of the "Doctrine of the Trinity;" and the Rev. G. H. Herrick of "Prophecy as related to the Eastern Question." President Woolsey reviews recent discussions relative to "The Year of Christ's Birth," and the Rev. A. H. Rose surveys and examines the testimony of Scripture concerning "The Silence of Women in the Churches," arriving at a conclusion wherein we friends of *The Revolution* we suppose will be indignant.

The *North American Review* for April is a much more sprightly number than, from a glance at its table of contents, we expected to find it. The first article is by Dr. W. A. Hammond, on "The Physics and Physiology of Spiritualism." Dr. Hammond believes that all the phenomena of spiritualism which are not the tricks of jugglers or the phantasies of imagination can be explained on the principles governing those peculiar states of the nervous system which was indicated under the terms magnetism, hypnotism, somnambulism, and hysteria. He cites from his own experience some very curious cases of somnambulism, which he treated as a physical disease, and cured with the ordinary remedies of the pharmacopœia; and yet the symptoms of this disorder resembled so closely the recorded performances of spiritual mediums, that a more credulous observer than Dr. Hammond would have been very likely to attribute them to supernatural agencies. The physiology of the nervous system is not even tolerably well understood, and of the physiology of the mind, we are perhaps equally ignorant. It is impossible, therefore, to determine either the limitations of their power or their various modes of action. Dr. Hammond, holding the view that where there is gray nerve-tissue, there nervous power is generated, believes that the spinal cord and sympathetic system are capable of originating certain kinds of mental influence which, when the brain is quiescent, may be wonderfully intensified. This theory helps to account for many of the phenomena which he discusses in this article. He has attended many seances and exhibitions, but declares that he has never seen any performance which could not be accounted for by the operation of some one or more of the causes he has specified. The second article, by Mr. George Ellis, is an appreciative review of "Parkman's Discovery of the Great West," Mr. C. L. Brace tells some interesting facts touching "Darwinism in Germany," where the development theory, of which the English philosopher has made such reverent use, is adopted by the atheistic school of savants as an argument against belief in a divine architect. Mr. Henry Brooks Adams attacks the "Legal-Tender Act" in a real old-fashioned "slashing article," in which the Hon. E. G. Spaulding is held up to public execration as a fool, "an ignorant man, impudent of resistance or restraint," a "shaver of notes at a country bank"; Thaddeus Stevens is a "veteran expounder of constitutions"; Owen Lovejoy is an extreme and violent man, from whom a word of sense is only to be accounted for as "a freak of nature," and so on to the end of the chapter. The argument of Mr. Adams is that the Legal-Tender Act was a great financial blunder, and the "necessity" which was assumed as the excuse for it did not exist either in 1862 or at any other period of the war. It is a great pity he could not say all this without losing his temper. There are papers on "Poverty and Public Charity," by F. B. Sanborn; "The Norman Conquest of England," reviewing Mr. Freeman's recent works, by W. F. Allen, and finally a spirited, epigrammatic paper by a lady, Agnes Irwin by name, who writes, from a late work by M. Tocque, a narrative of the *Coup d'Etat* of 1851. The "Critical Notices" are few, and good, and long.

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THE ECHO OF APPOMATTOX ACROSS THE ATLANTIC. By Justin McCarthy.

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